on releasing blood to a patient only after it is replaced by a relative or friend of the patient. This is known as a replacement donation.

Legally, it is not mandatory that the blood given to a patient has to be replaced, nor is there any guidelines to this effect. The practice of asking for a replacement blood unit for a unit of blood released essentially seeks to make up the shortfall in blood stocks in the blood banks. In emergencies, blood is always released without insisting on replacement and the blood banks later make up through either replacement or voluntary collections. It would be incorrect to state that patients are dying due to the system of replacement donations.

As regards the requirement of blood units for Delhi, it varies according to seasons and incidence of various diseases. The estimated average annual requirement for Delhi is about 3.00 lakh units of blood. Delhi has reported an annual blood collection of 3,26,861 units during the year 2003. 76,644 of this (23.4%) was from voluntary blood donation and the rest was collected from replacement donors. It is estimated that 25% of the total blood collection in Delhi is separated into blood components.

Proposals from NGOs

*269. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of project proposals received from Non-Government Organizations by his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) the details of project proposals which have been sanctioned and thereafter found unaccountable during the said period; and

(c) the present status of pending proposals and the likely date for their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has received 42,630 project proposals from Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) during the last three years i.e. 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2004. The Ministry has sanctioned 22,343 project proposals to NGOs during the said period pertaining to Environmental Education, Awareness and Training Scheme, Capacity Building Programme for Professional Societies and Institutions, Seminar/

Symposia/Workshops/Conferences, Grants-in-aid for National Afforestation and Eco-Development Programme, Animal Welfare Schemes, Wetland Conservation Programme, Mass Awareness Programme on Abatement of Environment Pollution, National Natural Resources Management Programme and Environmental Research Programme. 475 project proposals are pending for want of complete documents and will be considered only after receiving the same. The remainder were rejected for valid reasons.

Cobalt Therapy Machines For Cancer Control Treatment

*270. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several NGOs are playing a useful role with Government assistance under the National Cancer Control Programme, especially in establishing cancer facilities in rural and semi-urban areas;

(b) if so, the number of Cobalt therapy machines which have been installed by them during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) how Government Plan to support such NGOs during the Tenth Five Year Plan by providing more Cobalt therapy machines for cancer treatment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), financial assistance up to Rs. 1.00 Crore is provided to the NGOs for procurement of various equipment like cobalt Unit, Linear Accelerator, Simulator, HDR Brachy Therapy, Treatment Planning System (TPS) etc. under the Cobalt scheme. A list of NGOs who were assisted under Cobalt Scheme for establishing cancer treatment facilities during 9th Five Year Plan is given in the Statement (See below).

The revised strategy of NCCP proposed for the 10th Five Year Plan lays emphasis on involvement of NGOs for early detection and treatment of cancer through community based activities and strengthening the cancer treatment facilities in Government sector with a focus on reducing the geographical gaps in the availability of such facilities.